A Synopsis on

LOCATING SILENT REVOLUTION IN BIHAR: EMPOWERING WOMEN AS CATALYST FOR CHANGE (1990-2020)

(Synopsis)

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1. TITLE OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT :

LOCATING SILENT REVOLUTION IN BIHAR: EMPOWERING WOMEN AS CATALYST FOR CHANGE (1990-2020)

2. INTRODUCTION :

'There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly on only one wing. -

Swami Vivekananda

Women represent almost half of the world's population. But the hegemonic masculine ideology made them suffer a lot as they were denied equal status in the family and equal opportunities in different parts of the world.

The "silent revolution" of women's empowerment refers to a gradual yet profound societal transformation where women, often marginalized and overlooked historically, have steadily gained empowerment and visibility in various spheres of life. This evolution is characterized by a series of changes in societal norms, policies, education, economics, and cultural perceptions that have collectively uplifted women and enhanced their roles in society.

The aim of this study is a comprehensive exploration into the transformative journey of women in Bihar, spanning over three pivotal decades. The reason behind selecting specific periods (1990-2020) of research is to explore the roots of women empowerments that mainly started from the establishment of the **National Commission for Women (NCW), January 31, 1992.** That was formed under the **National Commission for Women Act, 1990.**

After that **Bihar State Women Commission** constituted in the **year 1993** to deal with issues related to crime against women in the state of Bihar which formed under the **National Commission for Women Act, 1990.**

2020 is the end of all schemes, surveys, five year plans, economic survey reports, census and government of Bihar's schemes, 7 nishchay scheme-2.0 (in which govt. of Bihar has increased amount for passing graduation for women) and surveys related to women empowerment in the state. And the most important thing is the latest data from election campaigns which given by ruling government about their performance in previous terms.

Empowering women in a society is essentially a process of uplifting the economic, social and political status of women and the underprivileged. It involves building a society wherein women can breathe without the fear of oppression, exploitation, apprehension, discrimination, and a general feeling of ill-treatment that symbolized a woman in a traditional male-dominated society like the one in India.

With the implementation of gender quotas since **India's 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts**, the percentage of women in political activities at the local level has risen from 4-5% to about 35-40%. Reserving one-third seats for women in elected bodies of rural local governments in India has triggered a **silent revolution.**

Taking a step forward in this direction, Bihar government increased women's reservation from 33% to 50% through **Panchayati Raj Amendment Act, 2006. In this way Bihar became the first state in India to increase women's reservation.**

For the first time, rural women began to participate in local governance to improve their status and acquire a decisive say in matters crucial to their livelihoods. In the recent discourse on women empowerment in the 62nd session of the Commission on Status of Women, the government of India has said gender equality and emancipation of rural women is a key driver of inclusive growth.

Mainly three elements of development made a catalyst role to empower women in Bihar are follows:

i. Local Government: For example, Women in the Dawaan local government participate in meetings without bias, speak freely on local development issues, and feel empowered to demand services.
ii. Education: The bicycle project has given girls a sense of confidence and many others scheme related to women made a catalyst role of change.
iii. Self-help groups: Bihar has over 10 lakh self-help groups run by women.

Govt. and the people of Bihar carried a significant role for changing their mentality towards women and took some very important steps for empowering women during 1990-2020.

The study aims to focus on the related to women empowerment schemes, surveys, govt. of Bihar reports of women empowerment, analysis of women steps towards their equality in society, government schemes, role of NGOs, SGOs and the most important things is analysis

of central govt. schemes and the role of globalization to impact the women of Bihar, and the contribution of law and order to safeguards the women and how women gained confidence to participate in every field in Bihar during 1990s to 2020s.

3. REVIEW OF THE WORK DONE:

Review of the previous work related to the topic is very useful in finding out the objectives and deciding the methodology of the research work to be carried out. It gives us an insight of the topic and guides us for further research. Some of the work done previously on the topic **'Women empowerment in Bihar'** has been reviewed and the review of the same is given below:

- **Sinha, A.K, 2008, New dimension of Women empowerment, Deep and Deep publication pvt ltd.(New Delhi)**

In this book the author used exclusively five year plans, from the first five year plan (1951-1956) to 12th five years plan (2012-2017). He described about the status of women in Bihar during the 1st to 12th five years plan. He also described the role of women in various aspects within the orthodox Hindu tradition of society. In very few places the author also mentions about the status of women at the time of post-colonial era. But the real study of the position of women during post-independence period lacks here in this context.

- **Rani, Asha, 2017, Women Empowerment in Rural Bihar ,Sage Journals, (2017)**

In this journal the author described the status of women is particularly low because of a lethal combination of feudal, caste and patriarchal oppression. She also described about the various programs and schemes that are operational differential outreach and impact on the lives of women in Bihar. In this journal it is stated that the status of women and women workers have need to be improved in Bihar. But the author was unable to give suitable example of the status of empowered women in rural Bihar.

- **Arun, Rashmi, 1997, Role of women in Panchayati Raj, Administration, Vol 11, April-June**

In this book the author described about the role of women in Panchayati Raj. She investigated some important role of women in local government. In this book she stated that women empowerment is the most important development of local government. She also recognized a silent revolution in rural Bihar is empowering women as catalyst for change.

But there is a huge gaps about actual empowerment of women in Bihar during 1990s to 2020s.

- **Lakshi, 1993, women and politics – A study in political participation, Book link corporation, Hyderabad,**

The author classifies her book in two segments. The first is on the towards histories of women and the second is on the participation of women in politics. In the first segments she described sequential process of women empowerment in history through the majestic change after post colonial change. In the second phase she focused women representation in politics through the changes in women rights. But the focus was only in area of politics not in the women empowerment.

- **Dutta, Amrita & Satija Shivani, Women, development, caste, and violence in rural Bihar, India, Asian Journal's of Women studies, 2020**

This article focuses on the contradictions that exist between economic development and gender equity in India. It deploys concepts of cultural violence and symbolic hegemony to understand how gender and caste-based violence is normalized and institutionalized over time through cultural norms. It also uses an intersectional lens to examine the layers of marginalization and oppression. Based on field studies in rural Bihar, it shows that despite development gains, old forms of gender-based discrimination and violence such as son-preference, dowry, witch-hunting, and discriminatory practices associated with menstruation persist. But the focus was on the improvement of domestic equality and economic empowerment only. My research aim to examine the catalyst role of women in changing Bihar through multiple aspects.

- **Kumar, Prafull Nath, 2022, Sage Journals (IMI, New Delhi), Collective Dairy Farming, Women Empowerment and Social Inclusion: A Village-Level Study from Bihar, India**

The author of this journals studied on how the dairy cooperative societies (DCS)-level activities under National Dairy Plan 1 (NDP I) have promoted women's empowerment and social inclusion in rural societies. They used the case study method, in-depth interviews and informal talks to gather information from the women dairy farmers. The study captures the very process of change that empowers the weaker sections of rural Bihar. But the author of this journal only tried to show women empowerment through economic aspects.

4. AIMS, OBJECTIVES & RELEVANCE:

(i) **AIMS:** The study aims to focus on the related to women empowerment schemes, surveys, govt. of Bihar reports of women empowerment, analysis of women steps towards their equality in society, government schemes, role of NGOs, SGOs and the most important things is analysis of central govt. schemes and the role of globalization to impact the women of Bihar, and the contribution of law and order to safeguards the women and how women gained confidence to participate in every field in Bihar during 1990s to 2020s. The main reason behind selection of this topic is I have a keen interest in women studies. I would like to do a comprehensive analysis of the position and status of women after the establishment of National women commission of India and Bihar. I have gone through many books and articles and journals about women empowerment in Bihar during 1990s to 2020s. But I have not found a single book that focused on the status and empowerment of women in these three decades. Some few books and Journals throw some light on the economic empowerment not through the many aspects of empowerment of women Bihar. So I would like to do this topic as it can create a new opening in this sphere of study about women and their aspirations.

(ii) OBJECTIVES:

My objectives of research are as follows:

1. **To identify the silent revolution for women empowerment in Bihar.**

2. **To analyze the role of Women as catalyst for change.**

3. **To Explore the Educational Initiatives that acted as a catalyst role for women empowerment in Bihar.**

4. **To Assess Economic Empowerment Programs during specific period.**

6. **To Investigate Political Representation especially in local governance bodies.**

7. **To examine the transformation of Societal and Cultural Shifts.**

(iii) RELEVANCE:

The main reason behind selection of this topic is I have a keen interest in women studies. I would like to do a comprehensive analysis of the position and status of women after the establishment of National women commission of India and Bihar. I have gone through many books and articles and journals about women empowerment in Bihar during 1990s to 2020s. But I have not found a single book that focused on the status and empowerment of women in these three decades. Some few books and Journals throw some light on the economic empowerment not through the many aspects of empowerment of women Bihar. So I would like to do this topic as it can create a new opening in this sphere of study about women and their aspirations.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIELD OF KNOWLELDGE:

The past three decades have witnessed a remarkable transformation in the state of Bihar, India, particularly in the realm of women's empowerment. From being one of the most economically and socially backward regions in the country, Bihar has emerged as a beacon of change, with women playing a pivotal role in driving this transformation. This silent revolution, often overlooked in mainstream narratives, represents a significant contribution to the field of knowledge, shedding light on the interplay between gender dynamics, development policies, and societal progress.

6. SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

The scope of the study would likely encompass several key aspects:

(i) **Historical Context**: Understanding the socio-political and economic landscape of Bihar from 1990 to 2020. This includes significant events, government policies, and cultural shifts that have influenced women's empowerment in the region.

(ii) **Women's Status and Empowerment**: Analyzing the status of women in Bihar during the specified period, including their access to education, healthcare, employment, and participation in decision-making processes.

(iii) **Factors Contributing to Empowerment**: Identifying the factors that have contributed to the empowerment of women in Bihar. This could include grassroots movements, government initiatives, NGO interventions, changes in societal attitudes, and economic developments.

(iv) **Challenges and Barriers**: Examining the challenges and barriers faced by women in Bihar despite efforts towards empowerment. This may include cultural norms, gender-based discrimination, lack of access to resources, and institutional constraints.

7. METHODOLOGY

The methodology I would like to implement in this research is it involves collection of literatures, collection of journals, publications, articles and a critical content analysis of the literature by using the qualitative. Research design will be exploratory and descriptive. My methodology will comprise of both primary and secondary data. As it is a work on **Women Empowerment through Silent Revolution** so both primary and secondary data are important for my course of research. I have to read and understand the literature between the lines to explore the undiscovered past. About the Locating Silent Revolution in Bihar: Empowering Women as catalyst for Change status of women in multiple aspects in different roles of that period. The research will be **scientific and objective**. In some areas I also need to use both qualitative and quantitative methods. So a portion of me Research can also be based on a mixed methodology.

8. AVAIBILITY OF THE SOURCE MATERIAL

There are huge materials on the topic of "Locating Silent Revolution in Bihar: Empowering Women as Catalyst for Change (1990s to 2020s)" available in various parts of Bihar and India. There are some resources given below:

- Data from **National Commission for Women Act, 1990.**
- **1991** census of India.
- **73rd & 74th** Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992.
- **2001** census of India.
- Data of Panchayati Raj Amendment Act, 2006.
- **2011** census of India.

- Bihar government **Economic Survey reports** from 1990 to 2020**.**
- Bihar Government educational, economic and political **initiatives and schemes** during **1990s to 2020s.**
- **2023** caste census of Bihar.

9. HYPOTHESIS:

The empowerment of women in Bihar, India, between 1990 and 2020 has served as a silent revolution, acting as a catalyst for transformative societal change across various sectors.

1. **Political Participation**: Increased participation of women in politics and governance roles, including local governance bodies like panchayats, has led to more inclusive decision-making processes and policies that address the needs of women and marginalized communities.

2. **Economic Empowerment**: Initiatives focused on skill development, microfinance, and entrepreneurship have enabled women to enter the workforce, contribute to household incomes, and gain financial independence. This economic empowerment has ripple effects on poverty alleviation and overall economic development.

3. **Education**: Efforts to promote girls' education have resulted in higher literacy rates and increased access to formal education for women. Educated women are better equipped to participate in the workforce, make informed decisions about their health and well-being, and advocate for their rights.

4. **Social Transformation**: Empowered women often serve as agents of social change within their communities. They challenge traditional gender roles, advocate for gender equality and women's rights, and promote progressive attitudes towards issues such as child marriage, dowry, and domestic violence.

5. **Health and Well-being**: Empowered women are more likely to have access to healthcare services, make decisions about their reproductive health, and adopt healthier behaviors for themselves and their families. This leads to improvements in maternal and child health outcomes and overall well-being.

6. **Technology and Connectivity**:The advent of technology and increased connectivity has facilitated access to information, education, and economic opportunities for women in Bihar. Digital literacy programs and the use of mobile phones for banking and communication have further empowered women, especially in rural areas.

7. **Community Development**: Women's empowerment initiatives often focus on community development and capacity-building, fostering collective action and solidarity among women. This sense of empowerment and unity strengthens social cohesion and resilience against various forms of discrimination and marginalization.

10. WORK PLAN

Chapter- 1. Introduction:

● Setting the context by discussing the socio-economic landscape of Bihar in the early 1990s.

Chapter- 2. Historical Perspectives of Women in Bihar:

● Tracing the historical roles, challenges, and societal perceptions of women in Bihar.

● Highlighting traditional barriers and inequalities faced by women in various spheres of life.

Chapter- 3. Economic & Education as an Empowerment Tool:

● Exploring initiatives and reforms aimed at improving female literacy rates.

● Analyzing the role of education and economy in transforming women into agents of change and empowerment.

Chapter – 4. Political Participation and Leadership:

● Examining the rise of women's participation in politics and leadership roles.

● Discussing policies and initiatives that enabled increased representation of women in local governance bodies and state level representation.

Chapter – 5. Legal Reforms, Women's Rights, Social and Cultural Transformations:

- Evaluating legal reforms addressing gender-based violence, dowry, and other issues affecting women.

- Highlighting the impact of these reforms on women's rights and societal perceptions.

Chapter – 6. Impact and Success Stories:

- Showcasing the success stories of empowered women who contributed significantly to Bihar's development.

- Highlighting the overall impact of women's empowerment on the state's progress.

Chapter – 7. Conclusion:

- Summarizing key findings, achievements, and the overall impact of the silent revolution on women's empowerment in Bihar.

- Offering insights into the way forward and recommendations for sustained progress.

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9. **2023** caste census of Bihar.
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